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Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. It also makes a mockery of the principles embodied in the mutual recognition between the two sides.

Both the above-mentioned plan and the continuation of illegal Israeli actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, represent another direct challenge to the international community and a gross violation of General Assembly resolution ES-10/2, adopted at its tenth emergency special session, on 25 April 1997.

At this time, I wish to take the opportunity to refer to the letter of the Israeli Chargé d'affaires a.i., dated 2 June 1997 (A/51/[illegible]), which represents yet another example of repeated Israeli campaigns aimed at diverting attention from the actual Israeli policies and practices that have caused the current dangerous crisis facing the Middle East peace process.

With regard to the question of Palestine, the issue of land cannot be considered in isolation from the issue of Israeli settler colonialism, which has been waged in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, a major dimension of which is the illegal confiscation of lands [illegible] non-Palestinian ownership of land as a tool [illegible] Palestinian sovereignty and not as a matter of normal private ownership. It should also be noted that since its establishment Israel has instituted all types of practical and legal arrangements to prevent land ownership by non-Jews in Israel.

In this context, the Palestinian Authority [illegible] implementation of existing laws in the Palestinian territory to prevent illegal land sales and transfers and, at the same time, will continue to take the needed measures to inhibit any attempt by persons to take the law into their own hands.

I would be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this present letter to be circulated as an official document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33, 35 and 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) [illegible]
Permanent Observer of the Palestine
to the United Nations